

Missouri Department of Conservation 2007 Regional Logger Awards

Ozark Region

The Missouri Department of Conservation recently announced that Ron Tuttle of Summersville, MO was awarded the Ozark Regional Logger Award for 2007. Ron has been logging for over 20 years. Tuttle Logging is a family operation consisting of Ron and his brothers Gary and Don, as well as their sons.



Michael Bill a Resource Forester for the Missouri Department of Conservation presented Ron Tuttle of Tuttle Logging the Ozark Regional Logger-of-the-Year award. Ron also received a Stihl logger protective kit sponsored by Crader Distributing Company.

Ron has always done an exceptional job on his state land sales, totaling several million board feet. He has an excellent reputation for logging on private land, including land owned by Pioneer Forest. Although Tuttle Logging is a high production logging operation, they make an extra effort to leave little residual damage. This in part is due to their use of best management practices, directional felling, insistence on using cable skidders, and a consciences mindset while operating in the woods. Ron and his crew also have excellent map reading skills and a good understanding of forest management prescriptions. Tuttle Logging also maximizes their production through excellent forest product utilization.

Southwest Region

The Southwest Regional Logger Award goes to Tom Heidlage. Tom provides an exceptional logging service for all landowners, not just those who involve a forester in their harvesting projects.



From left to right: Gary Smith, Monta Heidlage, Tom Heidlage, Tim Stanton, and Skip Mourglia

Tom works alone and does not proceed at break-neck speed through the woods. Few residual trees are damaged. He leaves a lighter “footprint” on the resource and the jobs look tidier and more attractive than the typical logging project.

Tom sets the gold standard for a 21st century logging service. Custom harvesting has become the niche market for exceptional loggers...and Tom belongs in the custom harvesting “Hall of Fame”.

Tom also completed the Master Tree Farmer & Master Tree Farmer II courses offered by the University of Missouri Extension at Carthage, Missouri. He is a certified Tree Farmer with a 50 acre Tree Farm in Newton County. He has completed 50 acres of intermediate cutting and TSI on his Tree Farm. Landowners in his neighborhood will only allow him to harvest timber.

Tom retired from a full time mechanic position with the Missouri National Guard, Camp Crowder facility about 2001 and since then began logging and milling full time. Tom began his logging career by logging part time on weekends and evenings while working for the National Guard.

Southeast Region

Dustin Lindgren is part of a dwindling occupation. Dustin is a logger. However his business card refers to him as a “Forest Management Professional”. This couldn’t be a more accurate title when referring to Dustin.

Dustin has worked with a variety of foresters on a number of different private land forest management projects. His commitment and concern for our forests speaks for itself. He practices directional felling and is committed to doing the least damage possible to the residual forest. He also understands that you can’t just cut the nice, valuable big trees and ignore the rest of the forest. He routinely harvests small diameter wood that is not

merchantable as a sawlog. There isn't much money in harvesting this material but Dustin understands that if he leaves the poor quality stems he really hasn't improved the forest.

One of the things that really puts Dustin "a cut above the rest" is his promotion that good forest management doesn't stop when he leaves the woods. Dustin has been involved in several different promotional events with both the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council. He has participated in several field days and was even willing to assist in making a video promoting good forest management.

Dustin is truly a "Forest Management Professional" and deserves recognition for the extra effort that he takes in managing our forests.

Northeast

The Northeast Region Logger Award goes to Jack and Brad Buster, a father and son logging team that has done an excellent job over the past couple years demonstrating to northeast Missouri what good loggers should be.



From left to right: State Forester Lisa Allen, Jack Buster, and Brad Buster

Jack and Brad both attended the MFPA loggers training taught by internationally known Soren Erikson. They brought doubts with them to the class that nobody could "teach these old dogs new tricks" (Jack is in his 70's and has been logging all his life). However, if you have ever had the privilege of meeting the instructor, Mr. Erikson, you know that he is an amazing feller, and he has the ability to prove to anyone with an open mind and a willingness to learn that his "bore cut" technique works. This must be exactly what happened because now Jack and Brad primarily use the bore cut method and they truly believe in it. If you ever spend time in the woods with Jack he will undoubtedly explain why this method is safe and predictable. Jack is so confident in this cutting method that he recently volunteered his time at a local *Tree Farm Days* to explain and demonstrate the bore cut method and the importance of safety equipment to the general public. Also, in his free time Jack competes yearly in Iowa and Missouri in the *Game of Logging* events.

Jack and Brad continually demonstrate their commitment to their profession by always wearing safety equipment. This shows that they realize the hazards of their job and take pride in making sure they are as safe

as possible. It would be easy on a hot day not to wear chaps or a hard hat, but these guys enjoy their jobs and want to be in the business for a long time. So safety always comes first and that is an admirable quality.

When landowners ask about Buster's Logging it is very easy to make a favorable recommendation. For the reasons above, Buster's Logging was selected for the Northeast Region Logger Award.

Northwest

Roger Whetstine was chosen for the Northwest Region Logger Award. Roger has been logging for a long time with his family and for himself. Roger's home is actually in Kansas but he buys and harvests trees in both Kansas and Missouri.



From left to right: John Fleming, Roger Whetstine, and a representative from STIHL.

Roger was one of the first loggers to complete the Professional Logger Training program offered by the Missouri Forest Products Association. Since then he has been one of only two local loggers that have maintained their certification. He has even gone a step above and asked about alternatives to the existing MFPA recertification classes. With a few options to choose from Roger agreed to participate in the Landowner Stewardship Short Course offered in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Conservation and University of Missouri Extension. As part of the deal Roger attended one of the five days that made up the short-course, which by design included class discussion on marketing timber (harvesting trees). This subject was of particular interest to the class as most were interested in one form or another in harvesting some of their trees.

Roger did a particularly good job representing his industry without self promotion or bias. When asked if there was such a thing as a good logger, Roger answered by stating a few simple points. Loggers are often judged by word of mouth and in his own operation he realizes that word of mouth carries far and wide, but more important is his ability to maintain a long term, sustainable customer. He knows that if a forest is harvested correctly, not only will the owner be satisfied but he will have an opportunity to buy and harvest logs from that same place in the future – sometimes 2 or 3 times. Therefore, sustainability of the trees and landowner satisfaction are high on his list. Not only does he operate as the landowner would prefer, he pays attention to any necessary BMPs

including minimizing residual tree damage. This is especially true for Roger since his markets regularly include very high grade lumber and veneer logs.

Crader Distributing Company, headquartered in Marble Hill, Missouri, the exclusive distributor of STIHL Outdoor Power Equipment in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Southern Illinois, sponsored the 2007 Logger Award program. STIHL has donated to each Regional Logger Award recipient a Protective Kit valued at \$479.

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To contact any of these professional loggers or another professional logger in your area, please click on the following link:

[Missouri Forest Products Association's Trained Logger List](#)